

East Face Vegetation Management Project Invasive Species/Existing Conditions Report

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest La Grande Ranger District

Introduction

This report addresses the existing conditions of the East Face Vegetation Management Project (East Face) as it pertains to non-native (invasive) species. Invasive species are defined as a non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic, environmental, or human health harm. An invasive species is distinguished from other non-natives by their ability to spread in native ecosystems. “Noxious weeds” on the other hand, is a legal term used by state, county, and federal agencies to denote plants that pose particular threats, generally to agriculture. Many undesirable non-natives can be invasive and pose threats to healthy native ecosystems but do not meet the criteria for listing as a “noxious weed.” For that reason, this report addresses all invasive non-native species and not just those listed as “noxious weeds.”

Existing Condition

There are 68 inventoried invasive non-native plant sites (11 different species) within the East Face project area. The inventoried acres within the project area are shown in the table below (Table 1). Many sites are linear, lying along roads, and in several cases multiple species occur within a single location. Acreages reflect current information in the Forest Invasive Species (INSP) GIS layer (GIS query, December 12, 2014). In addition to these listed species the project area also includes *Ventenata dubia*, *Bromus tectorum*, and others that are potentially harmful invasive species but do not meet the requirement for listing on the state or county “noxious weed” lists.

Table 1. Invasive plant inventory and Oregon Designations

Scientific Name	Common Name	Acres	County Designation	State Designation
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	white top	7.6	A	B
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	diffuse knapweed	101.9	A	B
<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i>	spotted knapweed	0.4	A	B
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	yellow star-thistle	4.5	A	B
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	canada thistle	1134.8	B	B
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	hounds tongue	1156.7	B	B
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St. Johnswort	245.9	--	B

<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	scotch thistle	2.6	A	B
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	sulfur cinquefoil	210	B	B
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Tansy ragwort	2.5	A	B
	Total	2873		

Baker County and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) designate listed invasive species status using a similar system.

“A” designated species – an invasive of known economic importance which occurs in the state in small enough infestations to make eradication or containment possible; or is not known to occur, but its presence in neighboring states makes future occurrence in Oregon seem imminent.

Recommended Action: Infestations are subject to intensive control when and where found within Baker County with possible assistance from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

“B” designated species – an invasive of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but which may have limited distribution in some counties.

Recommended Action: Moderate to intensive control where found within the county.

ODA also has “T” designated species, which are a priority noxious weed designated by the Oregon State Weed Board for which the ODA will develop and implement a statewide management plan. “T” designated noxious weeds are species selected from either the state “A” or “B” lists.

Treatment and monitoring records document all site visits by invasive plant specialists, spanning the years since initial discovery and inventory of the site. These records are on file at the La Grande Ranger District Office in La Grande, Oregon. These sites are visited on a regular basis for treatment and monitoring and can be relocated and identified on the ground when necessary.